

Application No. 09/821,618
Amendment Dated 4/25/05
Reply to Office Action of 2/8/05

REMARKS

This Amendment is submitted in response to the Office Action mailed on February 8, 2005. Claims 1 and 7 have been amended, and claims 11-19 stand withdrawn in response to a Restriction Requirement raised by Examiner.¹ Claims 1-10 remain pending in the present application. In view of the foregoing amendments, as well as the following remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that this application is in complete condition for allowance and requests reconsideration of the application in this regard.

Claims 1-10 stand rejected on the same grounds as set forth in the prior Office Action mailed on September 20, 2004. While Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections for the reasons set forth in the Amendment mailed on December 6, 2004 and the reasons below, Applicant has amended each of independent claims 1 and 7 to clearly distinguish over the prior art of record and respectfully requests that the rejections be withdrawn.

Applicant respectfully traverses Examiner's position that the dispensing heads of Rutledge et al. and Hynes et al. are "capable of" floating movement as claimed by Applicant. The dispensing head of Rutledge et al. moves solely in response to servo motor (230) and would therefore not be capable of floating linear movement if contacted with the closure member (100) (see column 10, lines 39-42). The dispensing

¹ The present Office Action indicates that claims 11-17 are withdrawn from consideration. This appears to be a typographical error as claims 11-19 stand withdrawn. Applicant respectfully requests correction of this error in the next communication.

Application No. 09/821,618
Amendment Dated 4/25/05
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head of Rutledge et al. cannot contact the closure member (100) since the closure member rotates during a dispensing operation. The servo motor (230) would prevent any floating linear movement of the dispensing head of Rutledge et al.

The dispensing head of Hynes et al. moves solely in response to a linear pneumatic slide (60) and, too, is incapable of floating linear movement if contacted with the electrical component (40) (see column 3, lines 15-24). As shown in FIG. 6 of Hynes et al., the dispensing head cannot contact the electrical component (40) since the dispensing head moves relative to the electrical component (40) during a dispensing operation. The pneumatic slide (60) would prevent any floating linear movement of the dispensing head of Hynes et al.

In any event, Applicant has amended each of independent claims 1 and 7 to positively recite that the liquid dispensing head is a "floating" liquid dispensing head that is configured for "floating" linear movement relative to the support member in response to contact of the dispensing head with the substrate. Each of independent claims 1 and 7 has further been amended to recite that the linear displacement sensor (claim 1) or the linear encoder (claim 7) has a first sensor component supported by the support member and a second sensor component supported by the liquid dispensing head.

Applicant respectfully submits that the combination of elements recited in each of independent claims 1 and 7 is not taught or suggested by the prior art of record and the rejections should be withdrawn.

Application No. 09/821,618
Amendment Dated 4/25/05
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Moreover, as claims 2-6 and 8-10 depend from allowable independent claims 1 and 7, respectively, and further as each of these claims recites a combination of elements not taught or suggested by the prior art of record, Applicant submits that these claims are allowable as well.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing response including the amendments and remarks, this application is submitted to be in complete condition for allowance and early notice to this effect is earnestly solicited. If there is any issue that remains which may be resolved by telephone conference, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned in order to resolve the same and expedite the allowance of this application.

Applicant does not believe that this response requires that any fees be submitted, however, if any fees are deemed necessary, these may be charged to Deposit Account No. 23-3000.

Respectfully submitted,

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